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ASIAN BENEVOLENT CORPS ENCOURAGES CROSS CULTURAL UNDERSTANDING

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BRADEMAS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BRADEMAS. Mr. Speaker, in our country today we too infrequently note the contributions made to many communities by those Americans who are of Asian descent. These people, who trace their ancestry to such lands as China, Japan, Burma, the Philippines, Korea, and Vietnam have made positive, constructive contributions to the life of their communities.

A leading organization which has been working vigorously for over a decade to encourage greater understanding of the cultural contributions made by Asians to America and to promote participation by Americans of Asian origin in the life of their local communities is the Asian Benevolent Corps—ABC.

Since 1963, ABC has directed educational and cultural programs in which Americans of Asian descent join Americans of other backgrounds to explore and enjoy the many dimensions of the Asian heritage, such as painting, music, literature, and other arts and activities.

ASIAN ARTS FESTIVAL

For example, Mr. Speaker, the Asian Benevolent Corps recently held a highly successful 6-day Asian Arts Festival at the Montgomery Mall in Bethesda, Md. At this very interesting festival, works by traditional and contemporary Asian artists were featured, embracing both the fine and applied arts. Theater, music, dance, fashion, flower arrangement, cooking, film, and architecture were on display.

The 6-day Asian Arts Festival was the fruit of ABC's longstanding interest in the arts and its ongoing involvement with them in forums, instruction and training, workshops, publications, and exchange programs.

Mr. Speaker, as sponsor in Congress of the National Arts and Humanities Foundation Act, I was pleased to learn that the Asian Arts Festival was sponsored in part by a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts.

The festival included exhibits of Asian-American paintings and other visual art works; Chinese and Japanese water color demonstrations; Korean, Chinese, Burmese, and Philippine folk dances; demonstrations of Vietnamese, Chinese, East Indian, and Philippine cooking; performances of Vietnamese, East Indian, and Philippine music; demonstrations of Chinese Kung Fu, Japanese Judo, and Korean Martial Arts; and fashion shows of costumes of various Asian countries.

Participating in the Festival were over 100 artists, many of whom were of Asian descent, many of whom were not, and hundreds of community participants and staff members.

DISTINGUISHED PUBLIC SERVICE AWARDS

Mr. Speaker, I would like to add that at this festival, the Asian Benevolent Corps also presented its Distinguished Public Service Awards for 1975 and that

the recipients were four of our own colleagues here in Congress, including: the distinguished Senators from Hawaii, the Honorable HIRAM L. FONG, and the Honorable DANIEL K. INOUYE, as well as the two Members of the House from Hawaii, our distinguished colleagues, the Honorable SPARK M. MATSUNAGA and the Honorable PATSY T. MINK.

In the words of the citations which accompanied their awards, these four outstanding Americans of Asian descent were recognized for:

Their meritorious and outstanding contributions made as Americans of Asian descent, for fostering mutual understanding and goodwill among persons of all national origins, for individual participation and growth in community life through inspiring citizenship and responsibility.

OBJECTIVES OF ABC

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to note here that these awards follow closely from the objectives of the Asian Benevolent Corps which I would like here to note:

To foster mutual understanding and goodwill among persons of all ancestries and backgrounds.

To make the arts, especially Asian arts, available to Americans and other people, and to promote cross cultural exchanges.

To develop interests, talents, and skills in furthering individual growth and harmonious community relations.

To improve the quality of life in the community, especially for disadvantaged persons, by developing community services and resources.

To encourage active participation in public affairs and to foster better citizenship and civic responsibility.

Both Congressman JOHN M. MURPHY of New York's 17th Congressional District, which includes the famed Chinatown, and Congressman MATSUNAGA addressed the persons attending the festival.

Mr. Speaker, the ABC, active here in Washington, also undertakes many other activities to realize these goals.

Through programs or chapters in Washington, D.C., New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Texas, Indiana, and California, as well as through the efforts of individuals working in other Asian communities in this country, about 25 programs are now operating in education, community services and manpower training and referral.

These programs provide career counseling, bilingual education, citizenship, business education, and courses in Asian affairs. ABC's Asian embassy semester, where students gain academic credit for courses in government, economics, and the arts and culture of various Asian countries, is a prime example of ABC's innovation and creativity.

ABC also publishes the magazine, Asian Voice, which features thoughtful articles on the arts and other aspects of Asian lands and which I believe Members of Congress will find a useful source of information on Asian and Asian American affairs.

Indeed, Mr. Speaker, I hope that Members of both the Senate and the House of Representatives will follow with sympathy

the interest the many constructive activities of the Asian Benevolent Corps.

ABC is an organization that is making a positive contribution to American life and I wish ABC continued success in its several activities.

DOMESTIC SURVEILLANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYBAL) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. ROYBAL. Mr. Speaker, when the Government becomes a lawbreaker, the law and society as we know them cease to exist.

The news of the last 2 weeks has brought forth another torrent of reports of Government intrusion into the personal lives of its citizens. The Rockefeller Commission report on the CIA has documented an organized domestic infiltration and surveillance unit known as Operation Chaos. The purpose of this unit was to spy on Americans who were engaging in civil rights activity protected under the Bill of Rights of the Constitution. The report credits Chaos with 32 wiretaps, 32 buggings, 12 break-ins, and the inspection of the income tax returns of 16 individuals. Yet Operation Chaos was but a small part of the CIA's illegal domestic intelligence surveillance operation. Overall, the Agency involved itself in systematic operations which included mail openings; monitoring of overseas telephones; infiltration of American political groups and the campaigns of candidates for offices; and wiretaps, buggings, and assorted break-ins and burglaries.

At the same time, a major television network reported that a breakthrough in computer technology now allows the Department of the Army to consolidate information on an individual collected by various Government agencies.

Last year, the Congress specifically refused to fund a project known as FEDNET, which was a system of computer terminals linked to five central data banks. Congress feared that the consolidation of individually collected information into one computer could lead to the creation of a complete file which would violate a person's constitutional rights.

Now we are told that, through a technological breakthrough, the Department of the Army has accomplished this same end. There are persistent reports that the system is already in use and that pieces of information about an individual collected by various Government agencies have already been consolidated.

Public outcry over these revelations has been somewhat muted. It could be that the American public has come to accept, almost with a sense of resignation, that its Government does in fact spy on them. A few years ago, when the buggings and burglaries of the Nixon's special investigation unit were revealed, the public outcry was overwhelming. People followed with great interest the daily revelations of the Ellsberg break-in, and the buggings of political and Government officials. At that time, they

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religion and is a standard practice for anyone who does not properly fit into the Soviet mold. At the present time the Jews are the victims of this treatment because of their desire to emigrate, but we should not forget the hundreds of other individuals who are suffering within the Gulag for their personal beliefs.

At this point, I would like to submit for the RECORD a list of the names of Soviet Jewish Prisoners of Conscience and the dates of their arrest.

NAMES OF SOVIET JEWISH PRISONERS OF CONSCIENCE AND DATE OF THEIR ARREST

Anatoly Altman—1970.
Yuri Berkovsky—1974.
Anna Berkovsky—1974.
Grigory Berman—1972.
Hillel Butman—1970.
David Chernoglas—1970.
Boris Davarashvili—1972.
Mark Dmyshitz—1970.
Alexander Feldman—1973.
Ilya Glezer—1972.
Lassal Kaminsky—1970.
Leib Khanokh—1970.
Mikhail Kornblit—1970.
Edward Kuznetsov—1970.
Sender Levenson—1975.
Lazar Lubarsky—1972.
Mark Lutskier—1973.
Yosef Mendelevich—1970.
Yosef Mishner—1970.
Mark Nashpitz—1975.
Boris Penson—1970.
Petya Pinkhasov—1973.
Yuri Poch—1972.
Chaim Rennert—1971.
Isaac Skolnik—1972.
Alexander Sliunin—1974.
Kopel Spector—1974.
Mikhail Stern—1974.
Yakov Suslensky—1970.
Boris Tsitlionak—1975.
Arkady Veinman—1972.
Leonid Veinman—1972.
Yuri Vudka—1969.
Lev Yagman—1970.
Israel Zalmanson—1970.
Wolf Zalmanson—1970.
Yuri Fedorov (non-Jew)—1970.
Alexander Murzhenko (non-Jew)—1970.

The following have been sentenced for crimes due to their application for exit visas.

Yevgeny Glikhman—1972.
Semyon Gluzman—1972.
Pyotr Goldbert—1974.
Albert Koltunov—1974.
Yefim Krchevsky—1973.
Yechiel Kutchuk—1974.
Grigory Lembert—1974.
Gavriel Superfein—1973.

Mr. GREEN. Mr. Speaker, 5 years ago, today, the Soviet Government shocked the world with the arrest and imprisonment of 11 persons. Nine Jews and two Christians were the criminals of the first Leningrad trial. Their crimes were keeping typewriters in their homes, owning books with the word "Jew" in them, and possessing letters from relatives in Israel.

Thereafter, the U.S.S.R. undertook a systematic plan to silence and intimidate Jews seeking to emigrate to Israel, despite the fact that the right to emigrate is guaranteed by Soviet and international law.

Recently, Mark Nashpits and Boris Tsitlionik were arrested and sentenced to 5 years in exile for demonstrating on behalf of Soviet Jewish prisoners of conscience, including those convicted in the Leningrad trials of 1970.

I am proud to have adopted a Soviet prisoner of conscience, Vulf Zalmanson. Mr. Zalmanson is a graduate of the Riga Agricultural Academy and worked as a mechanical engineer up to 1968, when he was inducted into the army. At that time, he applied to emigrate to Israel. Subsequently, in 1970 he was arrested as one of the nine Jews and two Christians aforementioned. He has since been in prison, after having been refused counsel and after testimony on his behalf was forcefully and fraudulently suppressed.

Free men cannot sit in silence while such repression and denial of basic rights takes place. Men and women of every faith and nationality, of every walk of life, must be shocked at such actions. And they must voice their displeasure.

I am pleased that many members of the Philadelphia legal community—the renowned "Philadelphia lawyers"—are joining an advertisement to protest this mockery of justice.

Recent months have seen a terrible hardening of Soviet immigration policy. The systematic repression of human rights has gotten worse. Sadly, the intimidation of Soviet Jews has intensified.

We in the Western World must make it known that we notice this is happening. We must voice our concern for Soviet Jewry, so that the Russians will know we do not tolerate this attitude. We seek only justice; we do not seek to interfere. We do plead, however, in the name of the prisoners of conscience, with the Soviets to heed our protest. We ask that the Soviet Government apply its own freedom of emigration law evenly. We beseech them to put an end to the human suffering, the indignities, and the outright repression. We do this in the name of humanity.

Mr. NIX. Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased that my colleague from Philadelphia, Mr. ERLBERG, has asked for this time to call the attention of the House to continuing political repression in the Soviet Union.

As has been pointed out, today is the fifth anniversary of the famous Leningrad trial, in which 11 persons were sentenced to death or long prison terms for attempting to leave the Soviet Union illegally. The Soviet authorities used this case to set an example to frighten Jews and other persons who desperately desire to emigrate from the Soviet Union.

I will mention specifically the case of Eduard Kuznetsov, who was originally sentenced to death for treason, anti-Soviet propaganda, anti-Soviet organization, and misappropriation of Soviet or public property. Kuznetsov's sentence was later commuted, and he is now serving a 15-year term under a "special strict regime" in Potma Prison.

His wife, Silva Zalmanson, was also convicted in the Leningrad trial, but was released from prison last year and allowed to emigrate to Israel. Kuznetsov's sole desire is to be reunited with his wife in Israel.

Mr. Speaker, it is well known to all of us that the Soviet Union has attempted in the past few years to improve its image. They evidently desire to be con-

sidered a respectable member of the world community. The shallowness of the Soviet Union's "Socialist legality" can be seen in the Kuznetsov case. When a situation arose that the Soviet leaders found threatening, they had no reluctance in resorting to the traditional methods of Soviet "justice."

Eduard Kuznetsov has vividly told the story of his persecution by the Soviet authorities in his book "Prison Diaries," which was smuggled out of prison and out of the Soviet Union. It was recently published in the United States by Stein & Day.

I will continue to do all in my power to secure the release of Eduard Kuznetsov and of the others. I believe that we must also continue to press the Soviet Union to allow those who desire to leave the Soviet Union to do so. If the Soviet Union wishes to be considered a civilized nation, I believe they must be judged by the standards of civilized nations. It should be made abundantly clear to them that the United States regards the human rights issue as a fundamental issue in the improvement of relations between our two countries.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. MARTIN), is recognized for 15 minutes.

[Mr. MARTIN addressed the house. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

REPUBLICANS NOT TO BLAME

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mrs. FENWICK) is recognized for 3 minutes.

Mrs. FENWICK. Mr. Speaker, I would like to respond to the remarks of the majority leader this morning. He held the defeat of the Emergency Employment Act to be the responsibility of the Republican minority. With Democrats outnumbering Republicans 2 to 1, is it not true that Democrats should be able to pass any bill they think wise and good? Is it not true that this bill was not a good one? And, on the other hand, is it not true that a good Republican bill, which would have provided \$2.3 billion for youth summer employment, recreation, the WIN program, older Americans employment, public service employment and a work-study program for students, was buried in a committee dominated by Democrats, and never came to the floor?

Now we are told that we will have a new bill and we can all hope that it will include the good programs enumerated above. If it does, I am sure it will attract the support of conscientious Members on both sides of the aisle.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GONZALEZ), is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. GONZALEZ addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

believed that the Government's intrusion into private lives was limited to criminals and the aberrational behavior of President Nixon's domestic spying team. But then, there were further revelations of domestic spying by the Internal Revenue Service, the FBI, the Federal Drug Enforcement Administration, and the Army. The public soon realized that many Government agencies had an organized, extensive and long-standing policy of surveillance and intrusion into the personal lives of many of this country's citizens.

The Government's infringement upon the civil and political rights of its citizens can be traced to three specific causes. First is the zealotry of certain Government officials. These people believe that it is their duty to collect information at any cost, even if it means a total disregard of the laws they have sworn to uphold.

The second cause revolves around the politicization of the information-gathering apparatus. Politicians, in their quest to retain their offices or to discover some insidious fact about the opposition, have used domestic surveillance as a means of gathering the necessary information.

Finally, domestic surveillance is used by some as a malicious instrument to hurt or embarrass people and groups which are either out of favor or disliked by a majority or by an official who has control over the information-gathering system.

Although governments have always kept a close watch over their citizens to a certain degree, the practice of domestic surveillance has been made much easier by the advent of the age of technology and the advances in computer science. It is now possible to consolidate disparate, often innocently given information which reveals the private life of an individual. This can be done surreptitiously and almost instantaneously. Domestic spying is fast becoming the private domain of high Government officials and a small number of computer operators.

Congress must put a stop to this deplorable activity. If we are to adopt the CIA oversight mechanism proposed by the Rockefeller Commission, let us insure that the Oversight Committee not be brainwashed by the mentality that currently pervades information-gathering agencies. The committee must not be allowed to shade the truth, look the other way, or decide that a close issue could qualify under the aegis of national security.

In addition to the recommendations of the Rockefeller Commission, we have at our disposal a legislative reform package. H.R. 214, the Bill of Rights Procedure Act, introduced by Congressman MOSHER, would prohibit all agencies of the Federal Government from conducting private surveillance without a court order. Further, any Federal employee found to be involved in surveillance without court approval would be subject to a criminal penalty of 1 year in jail and/or a \$10,000 fine.

This bill represents a step in the right direction, but it does not cure all the ills of domestic surveillance and should not

close the door to further investigation and legislative remedies. We should recognize that the ultimate safeguard of our liberty is a vigilant citizenry, and its will to question the actions of government.

THE ETHNIC HERITAGE BICENTENNIAL COMMEMORATIVE MEDAL ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. ANNUNZIO), is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. ANNUNZIO. Mr. Speaker, recently I introduced H.R. 7808, a bill to provide for the striking of medals commemorating the contributions by individuals of various ethnic backgrounds who contributed to the founding of the United States of America.

For too long our history books and folklore have emphasized our English heritage with little or no mention of the stirring contributions made by other ethnic groups. The exploits and dedication of many non-Englishmen have been overlooked with the result that proper acknowledgement of our pluralist history has been lacking.

My bill would help correct this defect in our national memory by striking 25,000 medals, of 21 different designs, which will serve as a reminder, during the 200th anniversary of our Revolution, that we are truly many peoples of one nation. The medals themselves would be designated by the Bicentennial Administration and all cost to the Government in producing the medals will be recovered in the sale of the medals to the general public.

I should like to acquaint you with a few of the names of persons of non-English ancestry who contributed importantly to our success against the British. Merely calling the roll of a few of these individuals will alert us to our many debts.

Take, for example, Thaddeus Kosciusko, born in Poland and trained in military engineering. He received a commission from the Continental Congress in 1776. A dynamic person and a courageous one, he participated in the defeat of Burgoyne at Ticonderoga and Saratoga, built the defenses of West Point, explored the Catawba, and completed his service as a cavalry leader in the South.

Another man of Polish ancestry, Casimir Pulaski, was early recruited by Benjamin Franklin for service against the British. He served as an aide to General Washington at the battle of Brandywine and during the severities of the winter at Valley Forge. He died shortly after being seriously wounded in a cavalry charge at Savannah, Ga., in 1779.

Gustav Henri Rosenthal, known in America as John Rose, was born in what is now Latvia. He fled to America in 1777 and served as a surgeon and as an aide to General Irvine in 1781 and 1782. In 1783 he was honorably discharged and later returned to Russia.

William Paca, of Italian extraction, was a signer of the Declaration of Independence. A Maryland attorney, he was

active in almost all the important political movements in the State. He opposed the Stamp Act in 1765, was a member of the Committee of Correspondence, and a delegate to the First Continental Congress. In addition, he helped frame the Maryland constitution, later became chief justice and, in 1782, was elected Governor of the State.

Baron von Steuben probably made some of the most important contributions of any leader to America. Frequently referred to as "the first teacher of the American Army," he was born in Germany, educated by the Jesuits, and served as an officer in the Seven Years War. In 1777, with a letter of introduction from Dr. Franklin, he traveled to America where he became an unpaid volunteer under General Washington. Experienced in the operations of a general staff, an institution with which Americans were unfamiliar, von Steuben developed a training program for the Army. Later, he served in the Monmouth campaign of 1778 and the Yorktown campaign of 1781. After the war, he became an American citizen, living out the remainder of his life in New York State.

And in all rolls of famous revolutionaries, one must include the legendary Marquis de Lafayette. A wealthy nobleman, he arrived in America in 1777. Offering to serve without pay, he was commissioned a major general and appointed an aide to General Washington. He immediately thrust himself into the thick of battle, being wounded at Brandywine and, later, leading a reconnaissance force against Cornwallis. He endured the misery of Valley Forge with his American comrades-in-arms and later provided outstanding service in the Monmouth campaign. More importantly, he laid the diplomatic groundwork for French aid to America, and he himself spent over \$200,000 of his personal fortune in support of the American cause, never seeking repayment.

These are a few of the ethnic patriots who sacrificed their time, energy, fortune, and often, lives, for a country which had little to offer in return. America today is the richer for being a pluralist nation with a multitude of languages, religions, and cultures. The passage of this bill would be a suitable expression of our gratitude and appreciation for the contributions of ethnic Americans to our unique heritage, and I urge the support of my colleagues for this legislation.

CONGRESSIONAL ADOPT-A-PRISONER; AMNESTY APPEAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New York (Mr. KOCH) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. KOCH. Mr. Speaker, yesterday marked the fifth anniversary of the mass arrests that led to the infamous Lenigrad trials of 1970 and the imprisonment of the Soviet Jewish prisoners of conscience. To mark the occasion the Greater New York Conference on Soviet Jewry has initiated a campaign to publicize the plight of the prisoners and hopefully secure some amelioration of

their situation. In connection with this campaign, 60 Congressmen from New York and New Jersey have joined the congressional adopt-a-prisoner program wherein each Representative undertakes to insure the release of a particular Soviet Jewish prisoner of conscience. With the worsening condition of Soviet Jews in general, and of the prisoners in particular, this effort takes on great importance.

On June 13 and June 15 rallies were held to commemorate the anniversary of the imprisonment of the Soviet Jewish prisoners of conscience which featured prominent civil libertarians, humanitarians, and public officials. At the request of the Greater New York Conference on Soviet Jewry I have circulated an amnesty appeal petition to the New York delegation participants in the congressional adopt-a-prisoner which was released at the aforementioned rallies. In that such occasions have, in the past, been marked by the granting of amnesty to prisoners, we signatories of the appeal hope that the Soviet Union will use this opportunity to release and repatriate those Soviet Jews now in prison who sought to emigrate to Israel.

I am appending the amnesty appeal with its signatories:

AMNESTY APPEAL

As persons concerned with human rights and justice, we the undersigned, appeal to the leaders of the Soviet Union to grant amnesty to the Jewish Prisoners of Conscience in the USSR.

We note with dismay the injustices suffered by Soviet Jews who have been imprisoned for their desire to exercise their basic rights, in accordance with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, to be repatriated to their national homeland and to be reunited with their families.

We are saddened and outraged at mistreatment of these Jewish prisoners; the physical and mental degradation, the denial of medical care, proper diet and even the minimal privileges granted other prisoners.

We recognize that for many of these prisoners each day of incarceration under these torturous conditions further endangers their very lives.

We call on the leaders of the Soviet Union to release these Prisoners of Conscience and to allow them to be reunited with their families in Israel. As the Soviet Union marks the 30th Anniversary of the victory over the Nazis with humanitarian gestures of amnesty and clemency, we ask that these people who are among the remnants of Eastern European Jewry, be included as well.

In the name of humanity, in the interest of international understanding, we ask the Government of the Soviet Union to heed this appeal.

Rep. Edward Koch, Rep. Bella Abzug, Rep. Joseph Addabbo, Rep. Jerome Ambro, Rep. Herman Badillo, Rep. Mario Biaggi, Rep. Thomas Downey, Rep. Hamilton Fish, Jr., Rep. Benjamin Gilman, Rep. Elizabeth Holtzman, Rep. John Murphy, Rep. Richard Richmond, Rep. Robert Roe, Rep. James Scheuer, Rep. Stephen Solarz, and Rep. Leo Zefteretti.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Kansas (Mrs. KEYS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. KEYS. Mr. Speaker, earlier this afternoon I was absent from the floor during the vote on H.R. 1607 to extend to newspapers the same lottery prohibitions

exemptions presently provided to radio and television stations. Had I been present, I would have voted yes.

NEED FOR PUBLIC SERVICE CONSERVATION JOBS FOR RURAL UNEMPLOYED

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. BEDELL) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BEDELL. Mr. Speaker, last week I introduced a bill which would provide public service conservation jobs for the rural unemployed. Today, I would like to take a brief moment to comment on the need for this legislation.

Unemployment is a very serious problem in rural America today, and the nature and scope of this problem is not fully understood by many Federal policymakers and by much of the American public.

It is a popular myth that the "real" or "hard-core" unemployment in our country is concentrated primarily in the cities, and that rural Americans are living a relatively comfortable and idyllic existence in the countryside. This simplistic conception of rural life ignores the stark realities of the 1970's—the fact that unemployment, depleted life savings, lost health insurance, bankruptcy, and foreclosure are painfully prevalent in every part of the country.

Stagflation does not have a discriminating eye. It has brought great economic and social dislocation to rural and urban areas alike.

Regrettably, it often appears that Federal policymakers are either ignorant of or insensitive to this fact. Indeed, when viewed in the overall context of national policy, it becomes quite apparent that the Federal response to the problems of rural America has been much less than equitable. The unemployment situation is an excellent case in point.

At one time, unemployment rates in rural areas were lower than the national average. This is no longer true. Declining wholesale prices and skyrocketing production costs are forcing increasing numbers of farmers and ranchers off their land and into the already swollen ranks of the unemployed. The depressed economy has forced many small businessmen to close up shop and lay off substantial numbers of blue collar workers. The unemployment rate for rural non-farm residents in the first quarter of 1975 was 9.8 percent, much higher than the national average of 8.3 percent. In addition, the unemployment rate for farm families has risen to 4.4 percent, a significant rise over normal levels. All in all, over 2½ million nonurban Americans are currently jobless, more than a quarter of the Nation's total. This figure is particularly revealing when one considers that less than one-third of the population resides in nonmetropolitan areas.

The inadequacy of the Federal effort to combat the unemployment problem in rural America is evident. An analysis of the Federal budget compiled by Senator JAMES ABOUREZK of South Dakota disclosed that only 17 percent of all Fed-

eral outlays for employment and manpower training go into nonmetropolitan areas, despite the fact that such areas account for more than 30 percent of the Nation's unemployed.

A recent study of Federal employment and training programs prepared for the Rural Housing Alliance by Mr. Tom Karter provides further insight into this matter. In his report, Mr. Karter comments that—

Rural areas have a greater per capita need for manpower services than urban areas, and this need is recognized by Federal manpower officials. However, rural areas have never received an equitable share of manpower funds. The lack of jobs in rural areas, the dispersion of the rural population, the greater cost of operating rural programs, the lack of resources, facilities and personnel, and the complex problems facing rural manpower planners are only some of the reasons explaining why rural areas have not received their equitable share of manpower funds.

It is clear that something must be done to promote a more balanced Federal response to our Nation's unemployment problem.

The bill I have introduced would help offset the geographic inequity inherent in existing Federal manpower programs by providing direct employment assistance to rural Americans. It would also help to preserve our country's natural resources by allocating the money and the manpower necessary to complete valuable conservation projects in rural communities.

Under this bill, any rural area—as defined by the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act—which has an unemployment rate of over 6 percent for a period of 90 days or more would be eligible for a conservation project. The program would be administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture in conjunction with State agencies already established in rural areas. To be eligible for employment under the program, individuals would have to be over 18 years of age, residents of the designated area, and out of work for at least 30 days.

It is important to keep in mind that this program is designed to complement, not supplant existing manpower programs. It has been drafted to become a permanent part of the Rural Development Act of 1972, and it would become operative whenever unemployment in a rural area rises to an unacceptable level. It is intended to insure that rural Americans will not be forgotten in periods of unusually high unemployment.

This is the critical issue—equal treatment for all our Nation's unemployed, regardless of where they happen to live.

The Congress has demonstrated its concern about our country's serious unemployment problem, and it has offered constructive and responsible proposals to deal with it. Unfortunately, our efforts have been continually frustrated by the administration.

The Congress recently approved a major emergency employment appropriations bill which would have created an estimated 900,000 jobs. It was vetoed by the President.

But, even if this bill had been enacted into law, as I believe it should have been, it would have had a disproportionate im-